

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 5 FEBRUARY 2002**

#### **ACTION PLAN ON ADULT LITERACY & NUMERACY**

##### **Report by Director of Educational & Social Services**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** To advise Members of the Education Committee of the production of the East Ayrshire Action Plan on Adult Literacy & Numeracy and seek endorsement to the plan.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** East Ayrshire Council produced its Community Learning Strategy in April 2000, and since then has been implementing the Strategy through the development of three pilot Community Learning Plans. Progress reports have previously been presented to both Education Committee and Local Committees for their information and the Plans were presented to the Education Committee on 13 November 2001.
- 2.2** At Education Committee on 18 September 2001 it was reported that over the next three years £22.5 million of new funding is being allocated to improve adult literacy and numeracy. Community Learning Strategy Partnerships are being allocated £18.5 million of this money through local authorities for the creation of new learning opportunities for those seeking help with literacy and numeracy in the next three years.
- 2.3** Resources will be linked to outcomes agreed with local authorities on behalf of Community Learning Strategy Partnerships and will build on, rather than replace, existing expenditure in order to achieve maximum impact within the community.
- 2.4** Community Learning Strategy Partnerships require to determine how the new resources can be used most effectively through all local providers of adult literacy and numeracy.

### **3. REPORT**

- 3.1** Local Action Plans were required to be submitted on behalf of the Community Learning Partnership through local authorities to the Scottish Executive by 31 December 2001. The Plan for East Ayrshire Community Learning Partnership, attached to this report as Appendix 1, was submitted to the Scottish Executive with the indication that it was subject to ratification by all of the partners. Due to the short time scale the Scottish Executive agreed that this was acceptable.

**3.2** The Scottish Executive specified that they expect plans to show:

- clear evidence of an open and effective partnership approach and how partners intend to create clear progression pathways
- a baseline statement of existing literacy and numeracy learning provision
- an indication of the steps local providers intend taking to improve the quality of provision within the area
- details of the developmental and community outreach work to be carried out to engage learners
- a clear target on the number of learners that the Community Learning Partnership expect to be able to help in the years 2001-2004 respectively
- details of local monitoring arrangements.

**3.3** The plan identifies that at this time there are two main deliverers of literacy programmes to adults in East Ayrshire, namely Kilmarnock College and Support to Communities and between them a total of 153 adults are supported each year. The Plan sets out the priorities for the Partnership:

- (i) Family Life
  - Parents and carers are aware of the positive role they can play in their children's learning;
  - Increased involvement of parents and carers in family learning opportunities.
- (ii) Regeneration and Employment
  - Increase in an individuals skills which lead to employment and employability;
  - More positive and supportive attitude towards literacy and numeracy issues within the workplace;
  - Increased self confidence and impact on personal growth of learners.
- (iii) Communities
  - Access to flexible and accessible learning opportunities within local communities;
  - Learning is perceived as having benefits for everyone in the community;
  - Increased citizenship through participation in local community groups, the community learning planning process and community planning generally;
  - Increase awareness of local issues and learning opportunities by learners
- (iv) Health
  - The ability of individuals to gain access to understand and use information in ways which promote and maintain good health.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Funding for the Action Plan can be met from the Literacy and Numeracy funding allocated to the local authority over the next three years

**5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Nil

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 It is asked that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) endorse the role of the Council in the Action Plan for Literacies in East Ayrshire; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational & Social Services

15 January 2002  
KG/AJ

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 1. Scottish Executive Circular No ELLD1/01 – Action Plans on Adult Literacy and Numeracy.
- 2. Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland – July 2001

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104 or Anne Jackson, Principal Officer, Communities Tel: (01563) 576126.

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR**

**AGENDA**